

### STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An insulating structure comprising:

an elongate insulating shank extending in a longitudinal direction; and

at least one insulating shed extending traverse to the longitudinal direction of the elongate shank;

wherein at least a portion of said shank is defined by a first insulating surface, said first insulating surface having a patterned texture defined by an array of substructures selected from protuberances and concavities, and

wherein at least a portion of said at least one shed is defined by a second insulating surface, said second insulating surface having a patterned texture defined by an array of substructures selected from protuberances and concavities a surface, at least a portion of said surface having a patterned texture.

2. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in Claim 1, wherein: in which the patterned texture is two dimensional, said shank has a circumference, and said array of substructures of said first insulating surface is spaced around the circumference of said shank and longitudinally along said shank.

3-11 (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in any of Claims 9 to 11 claim 1, in which wherein:

said protuberances and/or concavities are geometrical sections of substructures of said first insulating surface and said second insulating surface have at least one of a spherical, ellipsoidal, paraboloidal, hyperboloidal, conical or and other symmetric form shape.

13. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in claim 1, any of Claims 9 to 12, in which, wherein:

~~the form of the protuberances and/or concavities said array of substructures of said first insulating surface is arranged such that the surface area of said first insulating surface insulating structure is substantially constant per unit length along its the longitudinal direction length of said shank.~~

14. (currently amended) An insulating structure as claimed in ~~claim 1 any of Claims 9 to 12, in which,~~ wherein:

said array of substructures of said first insulating surface is the form of the protuberances and/or concavities is arranged such that the surface area of said first insulating surface of said insulating structure ~~is controlled to produce a~~ has a defined variation per unit length along its the longitudinal direction of said shank length.